

REMARKS

In the Office Action, dated July 18, 2003, the Examiner states that Claims 1-21 are pending, and Claims 1-21 are subject to a restriction requirement. By the present Amendment, Applicant amends the claims.

In the Office Action, the Examiner makes a restriction requirement between Claims 1-20 directed to a method of laser processing waveguide devices, and Claim 21 directed to a waveguide device. The Applicant respectfully disagrees with and traverses this restriction requirement.

In the telephone conversation on July 14, 2003 Applicant's attorney pointed out to the Examiner that Claims 1 and 21 are essentially drafted with the same language, and are not non-unitary requiring the Examiner to search separate categories of prior art. The Examiner has indicated that Group Art Unit 1700 only examines method claims and that any device claims are examined by a separate Group Art Unit. The Applicant contends that this internal Patent Office procedure is not reason enough to make the restriction requirement.

The Applicant has amended Claim 21 to replace "A device" with --An optical device--, in accordance with the language of Claim 1.

The Examiner states that the indicated groups of inventions are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. The Applicant disagrees since both Claims 1 and 21 contain the same inventive features.

In the event that the Applicant's arguments in traverse of this restriction requirement are not persuasive, the Applicant elects Claims 1-20 to be examined in the present application.

In light of the foregoing response, all the outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome. Applicant respectfully submits that this

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application should now be in better condition for allowance and respectfully requests favorable consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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